

# FOCUS ON THE FIRST

## MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD—1ST COUNCIL DISTRICT  
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### BCTC READY FOR FALL SEMESTER AT NEWTOWN CAMPUS

The Bluegrass Community & Technical College's (BCTC) expansion to its Newtown Campus is well underway. The first day for fall semester classes is August 18<sup>th</sup>.

A new classroom building, located at 500 Newtown Pike, was substantially completed in spring 2013. Located on the former site of Eastern State Hospital, the College retained full control of the property late last fall. Since this time, the demolition of many buildings has taken place & new parking space for faculty, staff & students has been added.

In addition to the new classroom building, three (3) existing buildings currently remain on site, and are to be occupied by BCTC. The master plan for the Newtown campus calls for future building construction, with intent for BCTC to fully relocate existing operations from its current Cooper Drive campus.

This project is the result of innovative real estate transfer between the University of Kentucky, Commonwealth of Kentucky (state government), and Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS). A formal dedication of the classroom building is scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>.

To hear & see more on the exciting developments at BCTC Newtown, please tune in to my Council Comment show, "Friends in the First", to air throughout the month of August on Government Television (GTV3). My guests will be Dr. Augusta Julian, BCTC President & CEO; and Chief Ronnie Bastin of Lexington Division of Police.



Chris Ford  
Councilman, 1st District

#### AUGUST CALENDAR:

2—YMCA Back-To-School Rallies  
9:00 am

5—Neighborhood Association  
Leaders Meeting (Coolavin Shelter)  
6:00 pm

8—First African Foundation Con-  
cert (Lyric Theatre) 7:00 pm

12—Urban County Council  
returns

13—FCPS First Day of School

14—Council Meeting 6:00 pm

28—Council Meeting 6:00 pm

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## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LEADS VOLUNTEER EFFORT AT MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK



If you've visited the Martin Luther King (MLK) Park this summer, you've probably noticed the park's fresh new look. This positive change is thanks to the hard work of some 150 volunteers that helped clear out tons of brush from the back of the park. In April, Lexington Habitat for Humanity sponsored the *Love Your Neighborhood* project in MLK Park.

Staff from Habitat, Urban County Government and the Lexington Police Department joined 130 volunteers from Center Point Church to remove brush from the densely wooded areas of the park. Parks & Recreation Maintenance employees prepped the site a week prior to the clean up and Arlington Tree Service not only added to the list of volunteers, but also donated tree equipment needed to chip up and haul off the brush on the day of the event.

Rachel Smith Childress, Habitat CEO, says, "The cleared areas help make the park not only more attractive, but safer for families and children to stroll, play and enjoy their neighborhoods."

MLK Park lies between the Winburn and Brookfield Chase subdivisions (in the Russell Cave Road corridor area).

## PLEASE JOIN US! 1ST DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS MEETING

**COOLAVIN PARK SHELTER**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH**

**6:00—7:30 PM**

**550 WEST SIXTH STREET**

The Coolavin Park entrance and shelter are near the corner of West Sixth Street and Jefferson Street.

**Our meeting will focus on traffic, parking, streets & roads. Please come to hear updates, join in Q & A, to share your ideas or express your concerns. Refreshments will be served!**



- ◆ Streets & Roads
- ◆ Street Repaving
- ◆ Traffic Concerns
- ◆ Pedestrian Issues
- ◆ Traffic studies
- ◆ Signals & Signage
- ◆ Neighborhood Projects
- ◆ Safety / Enforcement
- ◆ Sanitary Sewers
- ◆ Storm water drains



## LOUISVILLE JOINS LEXINGTON IN ADVOCACY FOR VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION



On July 16, I traveled to Louisville to attend the *Health, Education and Welfare* Committee meeting of the Louisville Metro Council. On the agenda, was a Council resolution in support of automatic restoration of voting rights for former felons.

In February 2013, I guided our Lexington – Fayette Urban County Council, in unanimously passing a resolution in support of House Bill 70. In doing so, Lexington became the first local government to lend legislative advocacy to the Kentucky General Assembly on this issue. Much credit also goes to many allied organizations including the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC).

House Bill 70 calls for an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution, to be placed before the voters, allowing for automatic restoration of voting rights for eligible former felons. This legislation has been sponsored in the Kentucky General Assembly by state Representative Jesse Crenshaw of Lexington.

Under the leadership of Louisville 1<sup>st</sup> District Councilwoman Attica Scott, and Kentucky Jobs with Justice Executive Director, Bonafacio Aleman, the Louisville resolution passed the committee unanimously. Subsequently, the resolution was adopted by the Metro Council on July 24, with unanimous 19-0 vote.

On behalf of our city, I offer congratulations to the leaders & citizens of Louisville on this feat. It was my pleasure to spend time with my counterparts in the River City. Also, I thank the Committee Chairwoman, Councilwoman Mary Wooldridge, for her committee's hospitality extended to me, respectively, and for their engagement of the Lexington experience, collectively.

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE HONORS CARNEGIE CENTER FOR WORK IN ARTS



In July, the Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning was one of nine recipients of the 2014 Governor's Awards in the Arts. This prestigious award is only given to organizations or individuals who have made "extraordinary and significant contributions to the arts" in Kentucky and whom demonstrate a lifelong commitment to the arts.

The Carnegie Center, which opened in 1992, has faithfully served the community through its literacy programs through tutoring, mentoring, writing workshops, book discussion groups and children's camps.

Neil Chethik, Carnegie Center Director, and staff will accept the Governor's Award at a public ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in October during National Arts and Humanities Month. Congrats to Center staff & volunteers for their continued hard work & much deserved achievements!

## LEXINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In mid-June, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department learned it had received accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), a process that first began in June 2011.

"We have been helping Lexington be well since 1904 and are among the first in the country to receive this national accreditation," says Dr. Rice Leach, Lexington's commissioner of health. "This would not have happened without significant help from many other agencies, the University of Kentucky, the business community and several individuals."

Public Health Accreditation is a significant milestone for the LFCHD and will allow the department to continue to focus on quality improvement by:

- Building upon our strengths and improving our weaknesses
- Placing the department in a competitive position to seek and apply for additional funding
- Promoting accountability to the community we serve
- Meeting the mission of improving the health of the community



## ARTS GRANT TO BENEFIT NORTH LIMESTONE CORRIDOR



The North Limestone Community Development Corporation (NoLi) and the Blue Grass Community Foundation were recently awarded a \$75,000 *Our Town* grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). *Our Town* grant will allow NoLi to develop the North Limestone Cultural Plan, a master plan that consist of cataloging the corridor's arts & cultural programming, develop strategies to ensure equitable access to such programming, determine potential spaces for public art and gather community input on public art programming.

Further, the grant will help fund two public art projects with the North Limestone neighborhood, that include a project with Kentucky



American Water and the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for the York Street water retention tank. While the Blue Grass Community Foundation will serve as a fiscal agent for the grant, other organizations will partner in the project including, North Limestone Neighborhood Association, LexArts, UK Department of Community & Leadership Development, LFUCG and the Lord Aeck Sargent planning and design firm.

This is a major award for the North Limestone corridor but moreover, the NoLi CDC should be commended for its hard work and its efforts to bring the arts to the neighborhoods north of Main Street.





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Councilman Chris Ford

## NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT IN ACTION



**Dunbar Community Center Window Replacement**

In total, 59 windows are being replaced: 31 windows on the 2nd & 3rd floors of the southern façade (picture shown) and 28 windows are being replaced on 1st floor of the northern façade.



**Green Acres Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project**

Project site at intersection of Hollow Creek Road at La Salle Road.



**North Broadway Repaving**

N. Broadway was recently repaved, from Fifth Street, through New Circle Road, to the intersection of Cane Run Road.



**IMMAG Groundbreaking**

Construction has finally begun on the long-awaited Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, located at the intersection of E. Third & Midland Avenue and Winchester Road. Construction should be complete by November 2014.

## KEY LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AT LFUCG



**Brad Chambers**, Director of Parks & Recreation

**David Holmes**, Commissioner of Environmental Quality & Public Works

**Dowell Hoskins-Squier**, Director of Traffic Engineering

**Charlie Lanter**, Director of Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention

**Albert Miller**, Director of Streets & Roads

**Tracey Thurman**, Director of Waste Management